THE WASHINGTON STATE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD NEWSLETTER November 2003

THE NOXIOUS NEWS

NOT MORE KNOTWEEDS!!!

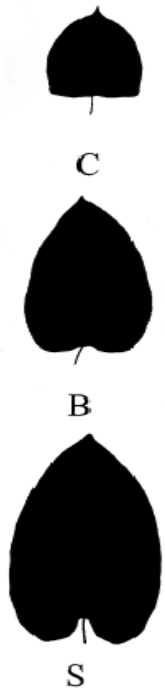
By Dana Coggon

It seems that everywhere you turn these last few months there has been some new information on knotweeds. In the last few years there have been at least three working groups created just around this one plant, or should I say these three plants and hybrids. Now there is one more to add to the three known species, in the area. Recently Peter F. Zika & Arthur Jacobson published a paper noting the presence of the hybrid knotweed known commonly as bohemian Knotweed.

For years county coordinators and others have suspected that there was a hybrid between giant (*Polygonum sachalinense)* and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cupidatum)* but thought that they had a "rare" plant. It didn't help that literature stated that most of the Japanese plants present in the Pacific Northwest were sterile. So coordinators were left to identify the plants that looked very much like Japanese knotweed but had some irregularities as plain old *P. cuspidatum*.

As pointed out in the recent paper "AN OVERLOOKED HYBRID JAPANESE KNOTWEED (*POLYGONUM CUSPIDATUMX SCACHALINENSE; POLYGONACEAE)* IN NORTH AMERICA " Peter Zika & Arthur Jacobson state that most of the knotweed that we have here is the hybrid Bohemian knotweed.

So how do we know what we have, Peter Zika recently gave some key ID characteristics he uses to differentiate between the species of knotweeds. All of the characteristics below are based on his observations.



Polygonum cupidatum: typically female clone recognized by presence of fruit. Flower clusters are longer than the leaves. Leaves are typically less than 18 cm in length and distinctively triangulate with a blunt leaf base. Image C

Polygonum bohimicum: typically found in WA as a male clone, flower clusters close to the length of the leaves. Leaves are an intermediate length typically ranging from 18-30 cm. Leaves appear are more ovate rather than triangular. Basal cleft is present in varying degrees. Image B

Polygonum sachalinense: typically seen as a female clone, flower clusters are close to half the length of the leaves. The leaves are typically 30-50 cm long and are distinctively oblong with a deep basal cleft. Image S

Polygonum polystachyum: Not typically confused with the others, it is recognized by its long slender leaves.

Peter noted that he felt that the hybrid is the most common in the state not due to its mixing here but rather from it being the most heavily imported for gardens. He noted that most the "new" infestations he feels are from fragmentation rather than from hybrid seeds. He assumes most of the plants that we will find in the state will continue to the be the hybrid.

On a quick plant tour Peter Zika pointed out some plants that appeared to be a back cross between the hybrid *P. bohimicum* and *P. cuspidatum*. This indicates that there is still a rare possibility that the knotweeds may continue to mix things up here in Washington.

(Images from Zika & Jacobson paper 2003)

IN THIS ISSUE

Check out the Web for more information. And more updates
www.nwcb.wa.gov

KNOTWEED ID NOT THE ONLY QUESTON.

Peter Zika with Japanese knotweed

Not only has the identification of knotweeds been in the news but so has the controversy over control of these plants. At a the aquatic plant school held in Portland OR, discussion arose on the legality of the use of the injection method. A representative from Oregon Department of Agriculture stated that they were looking into the method as being an off label treatment. The representative then stated that the concern is about the recommended rates of injection, rather than the method of treatment. In a conversation with a WSDA pesticide representative, she stated that they were also looking into information concerning the rate of 5 ml of any glyohosate product being injected into the stems.

A copy of WSDA's label interpretations of glyphosate products was supplied to the State Weed Board and is available for viewing. It was also stated that there was an experimental use permit that could be obtained through WSDA to cover minimal use of the injection method.

Contact Dana For more information or copies of materials presented at the knotweed class or for a copy of the label interpretation & information on experimental use. dcoggon@agr.wa.gov.

Spartina Update

By Kyle Murphy & Brad Archibald

WA Spartina Coordinator

A coordinated *Spartina* control effort in Willapa Bay treated approximately 5,600 solid acres and over 8,000 affected acres utilizing an Integrated Pest Management approach. This is more acreage treated than the past six years of the control program. This years treatments will almost certainly result in an overall reduction in the bay wide infestation, a first in the history of the Willapa Bay *Spartina* eradication effort.

The integrated approach included: herbicide applications (high pressure and low pressure systems, ground and aerial broadcast); mechanical treatments (rototilling, crushing, and disking); a combination of the two as well as manual removal. Additional experiments were conducted to improve the effectiveness of the biocontrol, *Prokelisia marginata*.

Treatment in Willapa Bay

The entities involved in the project included Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources; United States Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Washington Olympic Natural Resource Center, Washington State University Cranberry Research Station, and the Willapa Bay Grays Harbor Shellfish and Oyster Growers Association, The Nature Conservancy, and local government.

The program in Puget Sound was also expanded this season with the use of amphibious tracked vehicles for both spray platforms and mechanical control. The use of these machines extended the ability of participating control agencies, allowing for the treatment of the three largest infestations in the Sound. The addition of a crew from People for Puget Sound dedicated to monitoring and controlling outlying infestations also allowed for the concentration of work on the larger seed producing meadows. All told, approximately 95% of all infestations in Puget Sound were treated during the 2003 season.

The entities involved in *Spartina* work in Puget Sound included: Triangle Cove Spartina Task Force, Warm Beach Spartina Task Force, United States Navy, Wildlands Management, San Juan County Noxious Weed Board, Skagit County Noxious Weed Board, Snohomish County Noxious Weed Board, Island County Noxious Weed Board, Suquamish Tribal Community, Swinomish Tribal Community, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Agriculture, People for Puget Sound, The Nature Conservancy and many more.

Executive Secretary's Corner

Mailing Campaign Addressed To Nursery Industry

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board has begun a mailing campaign to provide weed information to the approximately 8,000 holders of state Nursery Dealers Licenses.

Consisting of four pieces, the mailing provides a brochure on Washington's weed laws, the State Noxious Weed List, the brochure *"Plants and Seeds Whose Sales are Prohibited in Washington State"* and the address of the State Weed Board website.

A cover letter urges business owners to avoid dealing in noxious weeds and provides contact information for State Weed Board staff and the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Nursery Inspection Program. The letter advises nursery operators that "your county noxious weed control board is one of the best sources for information on what weeds are particularly troublesome in your area," and advises them how to contact their local board.

Finally, the package informs industry members that a seat specifically reserved for a representative of the horticulture industry has been created on the committee that recommends what plants should be added to or removed from the Noxious Weed List.

State Board Proposes Exemption If Lawsuit Brings Buffer Zones

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board has proposed an "exemption" for noxious weed control if a lawsuit currently underway results in "buffer zones" that prevent the use of some pesticides near some bodies of water. Since then, both the plaintiffs and defendants have filed court documents that include proposals for such an exemption.

The case originally was filed by the Washington Toxics Coalition against the Environmental Protection Agency. Several parties have joined each side as "interveners." The suit could result in a list of pesticide active ingredients being subject to "buffers" disallowing their application near any water body that might be accessible to salmon listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Originally, 54 active ingredients had the potential to be impacted. Some have since been determined by the EPA to have "no effect" on salmon, so 39 active ingredients could still be subject to buffers. Several of those active ingredients are herbicides. The use of 2,4-D would be subjected to buffers.

WSNWCB staff on September 18 submitted language for an exemption for noxious weed control applications of herbicides within the potential buffers, along with justification for such an exemption based on the environmental impacts of noxious weeds. It would exempt any application targeting weeds designated "noxious" under VCW 17.10 and WAC 16-750.

The exemption proposal subsequently proposed by the plaintiffs has a number of conditions attached to it. The defendant's proposal was more straightforward. The judge's ruling was still pending when the newsletter was published.

New Map Shows State's Noxious Weed Regions

A new and improved map of the Noxious Weed Regions of Washington State is now available from the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board.

The Noxious Weed Regions are described in Washington Administrative Code Chapter 16-750-004. They are referenced in WAC Chapter 16-750-011, to outline the lands within which Class B weeds are designated for mandatory control.

The new map corrects some technical problems that existed with the previous map, and also adds color to help delineate the regions better. It was created by Perry Beale, Crop/Pesticide Use and Mapping Specialist with the Washington State Department of Agriculture's Endangered Species Program.

NAWMA Conference
Held at 2002 Olympics Venue

By Steve McGonigal

Speakers from across the U.S. brought their weed expertise to Park City, Utah September 9 through 11 when the North American Weed Management Association held its 11th annual conference and trade show in the city that hosted the 2002 winter Olympics.

Utah State Weed Coordinator Steve Burningham told NAWMA members that his state's noxious weed list features 18 plants. Dyer's woad, which was eradicated in past years in Washington State, is a significant current problem in Utah. Thousands of acres are infested, and the weed continues to spread rapidly.

Omaha, Nebraska's successful program to get property owners to trade in their purple loosestrife for appropriate plants was described by Bob Ellis, weed control director in Douglas County. Funded by a grant, the program involved nurseries giving citizens a 25 percent discount when they swapped the loosestrife they dug out of their property for non-invasive species. Ellis felt that the program's education and public relations aspects helped to eliminate Lythrum plantings and composting

Field tour

Work toward finding bio-controls for saltcedar was described by Greg Abbott of the United States Department of Agriculture. A leaf-eating beetle is showing promise in southern latitudes, where it goes through four generations per year and achieves rapid defoliation of saltcedar only. Efforts to establish the insect in northern regions have been less successful. A root-boring grub is also being researched.

A half-day of tours took NAWMA participants on-site to see weed control challenges and successes in and around Park City. Soil disturbances involved in ski property development are often an avenue for the spread of invasive weeds. Owners, many of whom live elsewhere when they are not skiing, are often unaware of the threat. Another tour stop featured a simulated accident involving pesticides, and demonstrated decontamination and containment demonstrations. Restoration work along the Provo River was viewed, while the complications of controlling weeds while protecting rare species were described.

A conceptual design for "A National Early Detection and Rapid Response System for Invasive Plants in the United States" was described by Randy Westbrooks, Invasive Plant Coordinator for the United States Geologic Survey. He said that money was now coming into the USGS to field test the system next year.

Other programs described NAWMA's invasive plant mapping standards, the Federal Highway Administration's "Weeds Across the Border" program and other initiatives.

Next year's NAWMA conference will be held September 21 through 23 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Questions or Comments on any thing in the Executive secretary's corner may be directed to Steve McGonigal, who can be reached at (360) 902-2053 or through email at SmcGonigal@agr.wa.gov.

In Brief

Class A weed reports are needed by December 15th. Dana is looking to collect the class A weed reports on line. if you are unable to access the web please send a hard copy of your report to the office. Please note that there is a box for you to mark if you have any "additional information", if you mark this box please send it to Dana by December 15th.
http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/classAreport/dataclassAform2004.asp

Saltcedar Leaf Beetle. Following the Tamarisk symposium in CO there was a report of a possible biocontrol agent for the plant. A news article was circulated from the state Weed Board stating " the USDA will release the agent in 13 states next spring to attack..". Unfortunately it does not appear that WA is one of the 13 states. For articles go to http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_info/New_Folder/news.htm , If you would like a hard copy of the news articles please contact Dana.

Lucy Making the Rounds. Lucy Loosestrife has been drawing plenty of attention at various venues throughout Western Washington . With the mascot getting the kids attention the adults are presented with information pertaining to who she is and what noxious weeds are. Watch for her in your area and contact Whatcom County Weed Board for more information on her.

CWMA's. Dana is looking for material for the newsletter. If you are involved in a CWMA please send her information on your progress this last season. She is looking for specific information on size of the group and who all is involved. If you have pictures of your working groups or of some good cooperative controls let me know.

Possible Herbarium move. The State Weed board's herbarium may soon become a part of the collective herbarium at UW's Center for urban horticulture through a proposal from Sarah Reichard. Materials will still be available for counties to "check out" thought the State Weed Board. Contact the State Weed Board for progress on this proposal.

Fake weeds are on their way. The state has purchased one set of the fake weeds that CIPM created. We will be setting up a system for counties to request to use the fake weeds in the near future. Please contact Dana for Details.

Training time. Keep your eyes open for trainings around your county. Check out http://pep.wsu.edu/Education/educ.html for the WSU recertification trainings. Keep in mind that Dana may have some spare images and slides if you need them. Please give Dana ample time to fulfill your requests. Also let her know if your county will be holding a training so she can place it on the calendar.

Late additions to the weed list. The noxious weed committee recommended the late additions of hairy willowherb and Bohemian knotweed to the 2004 weed list. Written findings and images of all the new 2004 weeds will be available after November 21st please contact Dana for copies.

New employee. Sara Carter has recently been hired as the Weed Management Specialist for the Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Board. She is a native of Carnation WA, and a graduate of The Evergreen State College. She is looking forward to the opportunity to spread the news about the impacts of noxious weeds. Drop Sara a line at secarter@co.lewis.wa.us if you have any questions, suggestions or would like to discuss an educational collaboration of one sort or another.


SARA CARTER

Noxious Weed Video. The "state wide weed video" will be available in December. The official title of the video is "Noxious Weeds, Everyone's Problem". Keep and eye out for your copy in the mail. Contact Dana if you have questions.

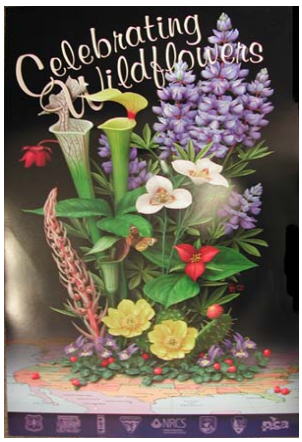
UW Rare Care Program

Who are they and what they do

Recently I had the opportunity to sit down with Carolyn Alfano of the Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation Program, commonly referred to as the Rare care program. In speaking with Carolyn it was clear that the goals of the group go beyond the goal to protect rare native plant populations in Washington. The group actively trains students and volunteers on monitoring plants and collecting seeds. They also work on reintroducing rare plants to native habitats and promote conservation research. The group is actively involved in a greater national network of institutions working to preserve biological diversity. Carolyn stated that the founding group has surpassed its expected goals for the last five years. She notes that they now have over a 100 volunteers and have recently opened a rare plant seed storage lab.

I am sure that you are now asking "So what do they do, and why is it important to the noxious weed program?"

What is the primary goal of the group? The goal of this program is to establish the first plant conservation program focused exclusively on vascular plants designated as rare in Washington State.



What do they do? Volunteers conduct surveys providing the information to the Natural Heritage program. Volunteers are trained not only to survey for the native plants but to also note possible invasive plant populations in the areas. The program also focuses on education for the general public. They are the lead on the Celebrating Wild Flowers campaign targeted at getting individuals interested in native plants. Rare Care is the lead coordinator on one Celebrating Wildflowers event and our event is held at Woodland Park Zoo. Celebrating Wildflowers is a nationwide collaborative commemoration between the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, emphasiz[ing] the importance of conservation and management of native plants and plant habitats and highlights the aesthetic, recreational, biological, medicinal, and economic values of wildflowers." (See http://www.nps.gov/plants/cw/variety.htm & http://courses.washington.edu/rarecare/CelebratingWildflowers.htm for more information).

How are volunteers selected? Volunteers are selected by filling out a resume stating their plant history indicating how long they have been involved with plant issues.

How do the Volunteers know where to go? The Natural Heritage program organizes hikes, or survey groups.Rare Care's program manager works with the Natural Heritage program to select which populations to target and then volunteers can make requests based on these selections. Locations are based on requests from the volunteers and from the programs data base of known rare plant locations.

So, why is this important to the noxious weed group? As Carolyn and I spoke, we discussed the importance of the program and the possible interactions with the noxious weed groups in Washington. I feel that it is extremely important to work with native plant groups that have a large base of enthusiastic participants. Carolyn also stressed that the data sheets have a location to note invasive plant species near the endangered plants.

How can we help? I also see an opportunity for our weed programs to get involved and help train some of the local groups on how to identify some of the noxious weeds. Carolyn feels that the noxious weed group would be a great area to get more volunteers that are interested in native plants and other plants that are invading our state. The group is seeking volunteers in the eastern portion of our state but would love anyone to get involved.

Carolyn and I feel that it is important to build bonds within the plant community to help fight the war on invasive species. We can provide the group with a great base of knowledge from the weed world and they can provide a great knowledge of native plants. I think that working with the Rare Care group is a win-win situation for all involved. To learn more about the program go to http://depts.washington.edu/rarecare/ or contact Carolyn Alfano, Voice: 206-616-0780. For a packet of information and a poster, contact Dana.

UP COMING EVENTS:

State Weed Board Meetings

November 18 9:30a.m. Regular Meeting and Hearing of 2004 Weed List (See Press Release Below) Washington Cattlemen's Association 1301 Dolarway, Ellensburg	
January 20, 2004 9:30 a.m. Natural Resources Building, Rm. 172 1111 Washingtgon Street. Olympia, WA	**March 16, 2004 9:30 a.m. Campbell's Resort, Chelan, WA**

PRESS RELEASE

From Steve McGonigal

Spreading Mustard Plant Proposed for Weed List

Hoary alyssum, a member of the mustard plant family that is spreading rapidly in northeastern Washington, would be added to the Washington State Noxious Weed List under a proposal to be heard in November.

The proposal is one of several that the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board will hear in its annual review of the weed list, which is the basis for weed regulation in the state. The Board will hold a public hearing at 1:30 p.m. November 18 at the Washington Cattlemen's Association, 1301 Dolarway, Ellensburg. Noxious weeds are non-native, invasive plants that are highly destructive, competitive or difficult to control and, once established, threaten Washington's natural resources and economy.

Hoary alyssum, which also goes by the botanical name *Berteroa incana*, was first noted in Pend Oreille County in 1969, and is suspected of being toxic to horses. "During the last three to four years we have seen an explosion in the spread and density of infestations in Ferry County," wrote the Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board, which proposed the listing along with the weed board in Stevens County. If adopted, the proposal would make hoary alyssum a Class B weed and designate it for mandatory control by landowners everywhere in the state except Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Lincoln Counties, plus a portion of Okanogan County.

Under state weed law, "control" of a weed requires prevention of the production and dispersal of all seed or other reproductive structures by the plant. Control methods vary from mechanical methods such as hand pulling of weeds through herbicide applications, the introduction of beneficial insects, the planting of competing native vegetation and other activities. Thirty-seven of Washington's 39 counties maintain county weed boards to advise citizens on the best control methods for their conditions.

Queen-devil hawkweed, thought to be a hybrid between meadow and tall hawkweeds, would also be added as a Class B weed under a proposal to be heard at the hearing. First found in Pend Oreille County, it is proposed for mandatory control in the entire state except Pend Oreille and Stevens County and that portion of Spokane County north of the Spokane River.

Nominated as a new Class C weed is common groundsel, also known as *Senecio vulgaris*. Several livestock deaths in the past two years have been blamed on hay that came from farm fields that had unusually high concentrations of this toxic weed.

A new knotweed, dubbed Bohemian knotweed, would become a Class C weed under another of the proposals to come before the Weed Board, along with hairy willow-herb, which is increasingly being found in wetland areas and sometimes even out-competes the notorious plant invader purple loosestrife.

Efforts to control Brazilian elodea, a serious aquatic pest plant, would be strengthened in the state's most populous county under another proposal to be aired November 18. Already a Class B noxious weed, and with a botanical name of *Egeria densa*, it would be designated for mandatory control in all of King County's lakes, except Lakes Washington, Union, Sammamish and Fenwick. Another proposal would change myrtle spurge from a Class C to a Class B weed, and require control in Pend Oreille County.

Other proposals would change the geographic areas for mandatory control of gorse, yellow hawkweed, spotted knapweed, giant and Himalayan knotweeds and saltcedar.

A copy of the proposed changes can be obtained from, and written comments may be submitted to Steve McGonigal, Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504. Comments can be faxed to (360) 902-2094 or emailed to smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov. Comments must be received by 5 p.m. November 11 to be considered.